

Message Text

SECRET

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ACTION ACDA-12

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 ACDE-00 CIAE-00 NSAE-00
NSCE-00 SSO-00 ICAE-00 INRE-00 H-01 INR-10 IO-13
L-03 OIC-02 OMB-01 PA-01 PM-05 SP-02 SS-15
TRSE-00 /078 W

-----082266 121322Z /43

O 121312Z MAY 78
FM USMISSION USNATO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1492
SECDEF WASHDC IMMEDIATE
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY LONDON
USDEL MBFR VIENNA
USNMR SHAPE BE
USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER

S E C R E T USNATO 04746

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PARM, NATO, MBFR
SUBJECT: MBFR: ASSOCIATED MEASURES (AMS) GUIDANCE

REFS: (A) STATE 116103 DTG 060148Z MAY 78, (B) USNATO 4575
DTG 081117Z MAY 78, (C) MENDELSON-HUMPHREYS TELECON,
10 MAY 78

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1. WE HAVE CIRCULATED BY LETTER THE TALKING POINTS AND
MANDATE CONTAINED IN PARAS 1-6 OF REF A RATHER THAN
RISK SUBSTANTIAL DELAY IN NOT GETTING US VIEWS TO OTHER
DELEGATIONS.
2. THE PRESS OF BUSINESS FOR THE DPC MINISTERIAL AND THE
NATO SUMMIT HAVE STRETCHED DELEGATIONS HERE TO THE LIMIT,
AND COMPETING REQUIREMENTS TO STAFF OTHER MEETINGS HAVE LED
TO THE CANCELLATION OF THE MAY 12 SPC MEETING ON MBFR
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(REF B) WHICH WAS POSTPONED FROM MAY 11 (REF C). MORE-
OVER, IN VIEW OF THE MAY 15 HOLIDAY AND MAY 18-19 DPC
MINISTERIAL, THE SPC MAY NOT MEET AT ALL NEXT WEEK,
ALTHOUGH WE ARE PRODDING THE IS AND DELEGATIONS TO AGREE
TO AT LEAST A SHORT SESSION.

3. WE HAVE ALSO BEGUN TO CONTACT DELEGATIONS BILATERALLY

TO PRESS FOR THE APPROACH RECOMMENDED REF A. IN INFORMAL SOUNDINGS TAKEN PRIOR TO THE DESPATCH OF OUR LETTER, THE BELGIANS WERE ENTHUSIASTIC ABOUT THE US PROPOSAL AND PREPARED TO SUPPORT IT IN THE SPC. FRG REP TOLD US THE FRG WILL ADOPT THE US APPROACH "IF WASHINGTON FEELS STRONGLY ABOUT IT". FRG REP SAID HE BELIEVED THAT BONN CHOSE NOT TO MAKE AN ISSUE OVER THIS AS "MORE SERIOUS SUBSTANTIVE PROBLEMS WOULD SOON ARISE." THE UK STILL PREFERS ITS OWN APPROACH, BUT WILL NOT BLOCK ANY CONSENSUS; THE CANADIANS WILL ALSO SUPPORT ANY NEW CONSENSUS. BOTH THE UK AND CANADIANS, HOWEVER, ARE CONCERNED OVER THE ABILITY OF THE WG TO CARRY OUT THE PROPOSED COMPREHENSIVE STUDY. BOTH DELS URGED THE US CONSIDER PROVIDING WG WITH A "WORKING PAPER" IN ORDER TO STIMULATE AN EFFECTIVE, FOCUSSED AND EXPEDITIOUS EFFORT.

4. COMMENT: WE BELIEVE UK AND CANADIAN DELS HAVE A VALID POINT. WE WILL KEEP THE HEAT ON THE WG TO MOVE THE REVIEW FORWARD, BUT THE DEPARTURE OF GROUP CAPTAIN SMITH, WHO HANDLED COMPLEX PAPERS SO WELL, WILL COMPLICATE OUR EFFORTS (PARA 1B, USNATO 4587). TO AVOID DELAYS OF A PROCEDURAL AS WELL AS SUBSTANTIVE NATURE, WE URGE WASHINGTON CONSIDER SUBMITTING, AT AN APPROPRIATELY EARLY STAGE, A BASIC TEXT OR AN EXPANDED OUTLINE PAPER WHICH COULD ASSIST THE WG IN TACKLING THE PROPOSED REVIEW. END COMMENT.

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